

Master Horner PROFILES

This is the thirteenth and fourteenth articles in a series on those members of the Honourable Company of Horners who have achieved the status of Master Horner. This issue features Master Horners Rex Reddick and Tim Sanner and following publication, their profiles will also be added to the Guild's Website at www.hornguild.org along with the other Masters.

Currently there are 14 members who have attained Master Horner status and each one has played an integral role in the Guild, with their demonstrated artisan skills, leadership abilities, and being instrumental in the growth and development of our organization. The 14 members mentioned include:

John Proud | Lee Larkin | Willy Frankfort
Roland Cadle | Art DeCamp | Erv Tschanz
John Kiselica | Joe Becker | Carl Dumke
John DeWald | Ed Long | Walter Mabry
Rex Riddick | Tim Sanner

In accordance with the Guild's Standing Rules, for anyone to become a Master Horner, an individual must "demonstrate a superlative level of ability in carving, heating and pressing, turning, engraving, and integrating woods and metals with cow horn by presenting three horn objects that demonstrate his or her ability to the Awards Committee for evaluation," plus give "an original written and oral presentation to the HCH at an annual meeting or to another accredited organization on some aspect of horn working or its history." Needless to say, this is a high standard that has been met by only a few members (less than 4% of the HCH membership), and each has played a vital role in making the HCH what it is today.

Introducing Master Horner Rex Reddick

Rex Reddick is a very organized, focused, meticulous and goal oriented individual, a true student of horn work, who within three years of joining the Honourable Company of Horners attained Journeyman status.

Three years later in 2018, he achieved his goal of becoming a Master Horner.

He was born in Denison, Texas about 70 miles north of Dallas near the Oklahoma border where he and his wife Ginger still live. When old enough, he started working for his father in the family owned jewelry store where, needless to say, he acquired many of his talents, business skills and work ethic. While in college he needed money, so in 1970 he started a business called Crazy Crow Trading Post, which specialized in American Indian crafts and muzzleloading supplies. In 1973 Rex graduated from Southeastern State University in Oklahoma with a degree in business administration. The business he had started in college, now became his full time focus and in just about a year from now, in 2020, will celebrate its 50th anniversary!

Rex first started shooting muzzleloaders around 1974 and joined the Dallas Muzzleloading Gun Club. He made 3 or 4 powder horns using his father's small watchmaker's lathe to turn the base plugs. Although he had developed an interest in powder horns, it wasn't until he attended the Contemporary Longrifle Association (CLA) show in 2011, that he became more serious about all aspects of horn work. Rex met Master Horner John Proud and was very impressed with the

fine quality screw tip and engraved horns he saw displayed. John told him about the Horn Guild and encouraged him to join. He attended his first Guild meeting in 2012 and subsequently took Art DeCamp's class on southern banded horns at Conner Prairie that Fall. As evidence of his passion to learn the skills associated with horn work, Rex has been back every year since then to learn, expand and improve his skills. He has also taken a class at Village Restorations and different classes at Western Kentucky that focused on gunsmithing and tool making.

In addition to the training Rex has received, he noted that having a mentor is also key in developing one's skills. He stated that "Erv Tschanz and Art DeCamp both helped me a great deal with information, photos, drawings, and phone calls, especially when I began selecting and preparing those projects for my Masters. I bounced my ideas off of both Art and Erv and Art gave me some ideas on inkwells and threading, plus looked over the top of my cane where the compass was placed."

When asked about the type of horn work that interests him most and his favorite style of powder horn,



Turnscrew, worm and vent pick

York County horn 4th generation

he replied: "I enjoy making screw tip horns, but my favorite style is the fourth generation York Horn, with the Early Philadelphia being a close second. I also enjoy making other horn items such as inkwells, cups and boxes." It came as no surprise that one of his York County screw tip horns won a *Judges' Choice* ribbon at Dixon's several years ago, along with winning several ribbons at the Guild's annual Horn Fairs.

It's always interesting to ask each Master about any project that had special meaning to them, as the response is always varied. Rex replied that he particularly enjoyed reproducing a flintlock tool that incorporated a turncrew, worm and vent pick, all self-contained. This project combined the horn working skills he had learned, along with a tool making class he had previously taken at Western Kentucky University.

Of particular interest is always the workshop. Rex's shop differs from the norm in that he doesn't have one - he has two!! Or as he describes it: "My

shop is two-part; the first in an interior room in the house designed as a workshop with two benches and the second in the garage, which contains my lathes, a long bench and other tools. It's equipped for horn work, gun making, silversmithing and engraving." With Rex's diverse interests, it's obvious he needs more than one workshop.

Forever the student, Rex has also drawn a lot of his inspiration from various powder horn exhibits: "I recently visited Ft. Pitt to see their excellent temporary exhibit on powder horns, and have seen the collections at Colonial Williamsburg and the Mercer Museum in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. I look forward to eventually seeing the powder horn collections at Historic Deerfield and Ft. Ticonderoga."

Rex is not only involved with the Guild, but is a member of the Kentucky Rifle Association (KRA), Contemporary Longrifle Association (CLA), National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association (NMLRA) and National Rifle Association (NRA). It should be noted

that he serves on the boards of both the KRA (4 yrs) and the CLA (2 yrs).

Needless to say, Rex is very devoted to the Guild and stated that "Both Ginger and I have made many very good friends from being involved in my business and by becoming involved with the Horn Guild and the other related organizations, classes and events over the years. We have both been so impressed by the genuine warmth and generosity of the fine folks involved in this way of life. Virtually everyone we've become acquainted with has offered help and encouragement and freely shared their knowledge and skill, and we feel extremely fortunate to be involved with friends of this caliber."

Rex has always been a staunch supporter of the Guild, and through his continued involvement, will further enhance its future. He is a talented artisan, a credit to the Honourable Company of Horners and is a well deserved addition to the ranks of the Masters! -wec

Congratulations!

